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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	Border Information, Topolovgrad Okoliya	DATE DISTR.	3 June 1954	
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PLACE ACQUIRED		25X1 REQUIREMENT		25X1
		REFERENCES		

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Border Zones

1. The Tundzha River marks the Bulgarian-Turkish border in the vicinity of Filipovo village (N 41-54, E 26-31), Topolovgrad Okoliya. A strip of land parallel and adjacent to the Tundzha is a forbidden border zone. This strip varies between 500 and 1000 meters according to the time of year and the abundance of pasturage. Signs are posted indicating the forbidden zone. Anyone having legitimate reason to enter the forbidden zone must apply to the Border zastavas and then is accompanied by Border Guards.
- 25X1 2. a 60 x 20 centimeter, white sign about 100 meters northwest of Oreshnik village (N 42-03, E 26-23) in the direction of Topolovgrad stating "Border Zone" and some other unrecalled information.
3. Travelers from the interior of Bulgaria on public transportation vehicles are required to have Okrit Lists when coming to Topolovgrad. Documents of pedestrians entering Topolovgrad are not tightly controlled. there were few or no document controls around Topolovgrad because of the increase in travelers as a result of a military medical examination being conducted in Topolovgrad.
4. Residents of the border zone must procure an Okrit List from the MVR chief of the Okoliya center when traveling to the border zone of another okoliya. This regulation is sometimes ignored when the trip is to be of short duration and for a specific purpose (i.e. during the issuing of the Lichen Passports, residents of Filipovo who had to go to Lesovo village (N 42-00, E 26-32),

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Elkhovo Okoliya for documentation were allowed to go without procuring an Okrit List).

Border Zastavas

Following places:

5. There are Border Guard zastavas¹ located at Lesovo village, Varnik village (N 41-52, E 26-29) and "Kokiche" located two kilometers east of Filipovo village.
6. Members of the "Kokiche" zastava patrol as far north as a mill located on the Tundzha River north of the zastava headquarters. (See Appendix A.) The Tundzha River forms the border between the zones of the Lesovo and "Kokiche" zastavas. This river can be crossed easily on foot during the dry season, but it is difficult to cross in the rainy season. The zastava consists of about 100 enlisted men.

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a. First Lieutenant Tsvetkov, (fnu), Commander of the "Kokiche" zastava;

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b. First Lieutenant Milchev, (fnu)

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c. Serzhant Petrov, (fnu), training officer of the "Kokiche" zastava

7. The "Kokiche" zastava has four dogs which are similar to those used by shepherds. The dogs react to strangers similarly to untrained dogs (i.e. barking, etc.). These dogs sometimes accompany patrols.

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8. There is no direct telephone line between Filipovo village and the "Kokiche" zastava. To telephone this zastava from Filipovo, the call is put through to Radovets-Varnik-Kokiche.

9. New houses for officers of the Lesovo zastava were being constructed in October 1953.

10.

11.

Fortifications and Miscellaneous Information (Reference is made to Appendix A to this report)

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12. There is a single row of barbed wire stretched parallel to the Bulgarian side of a patrol path running between the "Kokiche" zastava and a mill located approximately five kilometers north of the zastava. There is an old abandoned church located west of the path about two kilometers south of the mill. There is a large pyramidal border marker located approximately one kilometer east of the mill.

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13. There are large trenches, 450 centimeters wide and 250 centimeters deep in the following places:
 - a. Between the mill of Paragraph 12 and a hill located south of it;
 - b. From the above hill to the Filipovo-Radoveta (N 41-55, E 26-31) road following the southern slopes of a ridge;
 - c. Starting about one kilometer west of Filipovo and parallel to the north branch of the road joining Filipovo with the Radoveta-Varnik road; and
 - d. North and parallel to the southern branch of the road joining Filipovo with the Radovets-Varnik road; an extension of unknown terminus starts on the western side of the Radovets-Varnik road.
14. There are 200 centimeter wide, 100 centimeters deep infantry trenches in the following places:
 - a. Between Filipovo and the hill of Paragraph 13 a;
 - b. South and running parallel to the southern branch of the road joining Filipovo with the Radovets-Varnik road along the base of a ridge;
 - c. South and running parallel to the extension of the trench of Paragraph 13 d;
 - d. From the Radovets-Varnik road to the hill of Paragraph 13 a, along the upper slopes of a ridge (built in 1953).
15. There is a row of barbed wire approximately paralleling the trenches of Paragraph 13 b and d.
16. There are oval concrete bunkers (the interior rooms are rectangular) in the following places:
 - a. On the summit of the hill of Paragraph 13 a;
 - b. About 1500 meters east of the intersection of the branches of the Filipovo-Radovets road;
 - c. About 200 meters west of the intersection of the branches of the Filipovo-Radovets road;
 - d. About 300 meters east of the Radovets-Varnik road on the trench of Paragraph 13 c;
 - e. On a hill located about 1500 meters west of the intersection of the Filipovo road with the Radovets-Varnik road. (This is in a pasture area known as "Chanlik"); and
 - f. About 200 meters east of the Radovets-Varnik road in the triangle formed by the branches of the Filipovo road.
17. There are two gun posts located near the Radovets-Varnik road on the trench of Paragraph 13 d. These posts are about 10 meters in diameter and are depressed about one meter. They have an earth floor except for the centers which are covered with rocks and pebbles, and are connected to the main trench by a branch trench.
18. In 1953 an earth-covered bunker was built just east of the Filipovo-Radovets road about 50 meters north of the barbed wire and 100 meters north of the broad trench. This bunker is entered from the north and has a single embrasure on the west side.

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19. [] three two x one meter doors located on the side of a hill just south of Ustrem (N 42-01, E 26-29) and east of the Ustrem-Radovets road. These doors were closed and guarded by sentries. [] these are the doors to an ammunition depot. (See inset to Appendix A.)

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1. [] Comment: [] the 3 Komandatura, Podelenie [] in Lesovo, and the 2 Komandatura, Podelenie [] in Varnik. Both of these komandaturas are subordinate to the 6 Border Guard Otryad in Elkhovo. [] 8 "Kokiche" Zastava under the command of the 2 Komandatura.

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Key to Attachment A

- A. Radovets village
- B. Filipovo village
- C. Prisdets village (N 41-54, E 26-32)
- D. Varnik village
- E. TKZS fields
- F. "Kokiche" Border Guard zastava
- G. Mill
- H. Tundzha River
- I. Chanlik pasture land
- J. Ustrem Village
- K. Road to Radovets
- L. Lesovo village

— Road

... Border Guard patrol path

~ Two x one meter infantry trench

- - 450 x 250 centimeter trench

xxxx Barbed wire fence

! Concrete bunker

■ Underground bunker

+ Abandoned church

△ Pyramidal border marker

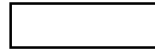
Ⓔ Hillside doors; possibly ammunition dump

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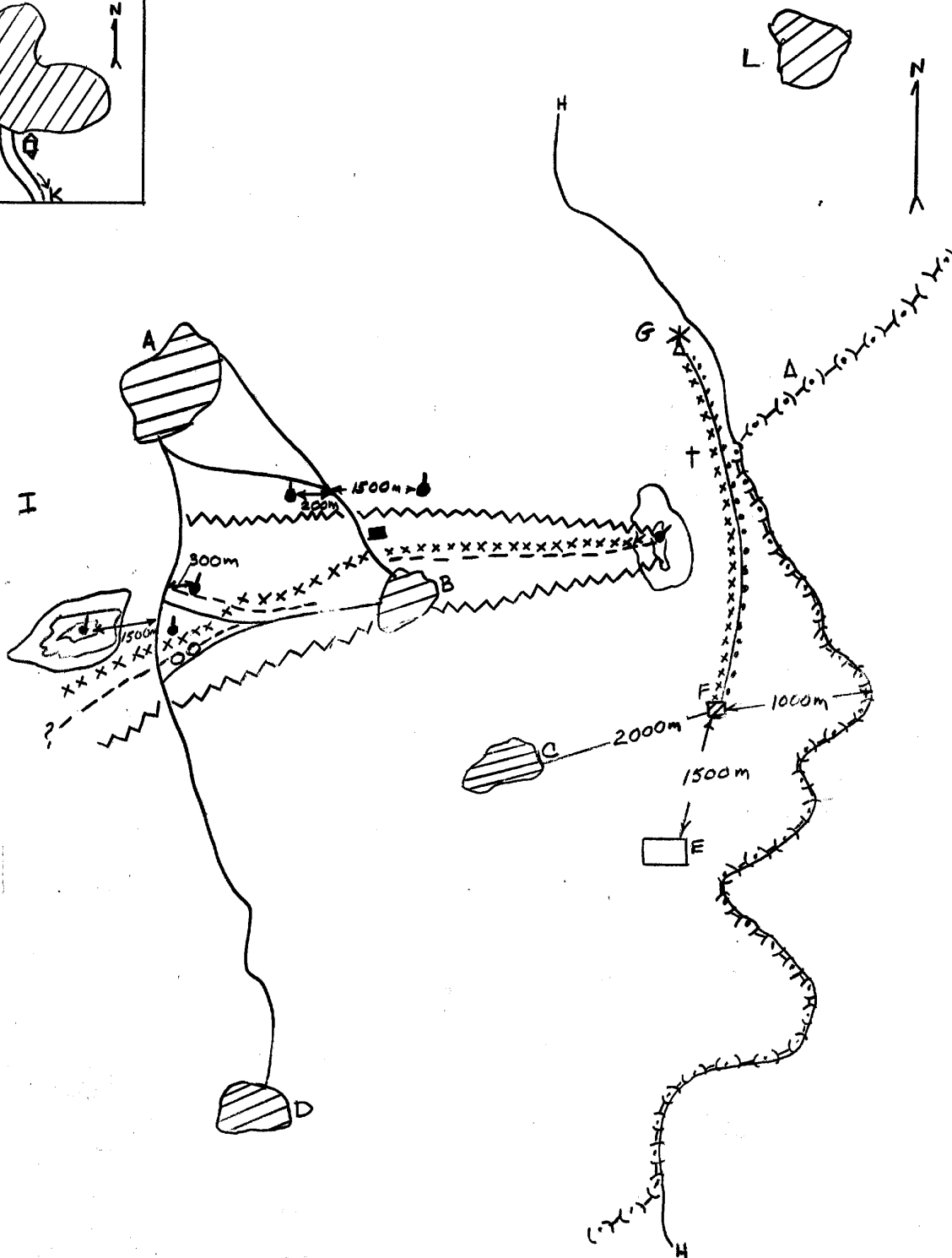
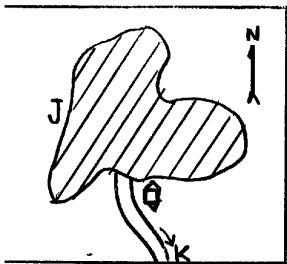
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APPENDIX A

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Not to scale.

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